Faculty of Health, Science, and Technology

Programme Study Plan

Risk Management in Society

Programme Code:	SARHS
Programme Title:	Risk Management in Society
Degree Title:	Master's Degree in Social Science, 120 Credits. Major: Risk Management
Credits/ECTS:	120
Programme Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Health, Science, and Technology on 26 Sept. 2019 and is effective from the autumn semester of 2020.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish and English
Degree Level:	Master
Degree Type:	General
Prerequisites:	General admission requirements. Specific admission requirements: Upper secondary level Swedish 3 or B, English 6 or A. Bachelor degree of at least 180 ECTS cr. in one of the subject areas social science, natural science, technology, or health care, or equivalent.

Karlstads universitet
651 88 Karlstad
Tfn 054-700 10 00
Fax 054-700 14 60
Information@kau.se

General Information

This programme rests on a citizen perspective on risk management, which makes it interdisciplinary in its approach. How can we create a safer and more secure society today and for the future generations? The aspect of the future involves sustainability with regard to the conditions of nature. In this respect, risk is associated with the threats to life, health, the environment, and societal functions. The term risk management refers to the architecture per se (principles, framework, and processes) for managing risks effectively (eg. ISO 31000). Risk management as an academic discipline studies the theory and practice of risk management and aims to develop knowledge of different risks, as well as methodology and evidence of analysis and management.

The master programme prepares for professional employment as well as for research, and is designed to provide a broad understanding of risk management in society. Students acquire a solid foundation for practical risk management as this is planned, structured, and carried out on different levels in society and in various sectors and learn about factors affecting risk management and how these factors are influenced by financial operating systems and by differences in outlook and regulations in different areas. Graduates will have many career opportunities in the public sector, the industry, and other organisations. Examples of professional titles that graduates may have are safety and contingency coordinator, safety strategist, or operations developer, but risk management as a duty can also be included in many other positions.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

The *Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2 Qualification Ordinance*, states the objectives required for a specific qualification. The objectives of a general Master's Degree are the following:

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and

- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Programme Structure
The programme comprises two years full-time study. Course modules run parallel two and two at part-time pace, barring the full-time degree project. The programme is a form of distance learning, with mandatory on campus meetings every 10th week for a two-to- three-day period of instruction in the form of lectures, group work and seminars.

Internationalisation
Karlstad University promotes cooperation and exchange with other universities and has agreements with many universities in Sweden and abroad as well as a support organisation for incoming and outgoing students. Programme students are encouraged to study a period abroad, especially during the first ten weeks of the last year's autumn semester.

Programme Curriculum
Many of the issues and circumstances involved in risk management as a main field of study are treated in a multidisciplinary perspective, informed by various theoretical perspectives and methodology from public health studies, geography, environmental science, political science and psychology. The focus is on unwanted incidents and how risks can be managed through systematic approaches. Common components are risk identification, risk analysis, risk estimation, and risk reduction, which are often described in terms of a loop of constant improvement.

The emphasis is on the societal level and primarily on the preventive and preparatory perspective. The two extremes of everyday incidents and major disasters entail partly different challenges to society, and they are treated thematically in special modules (see appendix) progressing along two different strands (Individual Safety, and Natural Disasters) in the recommended courses and also electives. Both strands focus on the vulnerability of critical functions, health and human interdependence, determination factors and changes over time.

A combination of disciplinary focus for students who have other Bachelor majors and a progression toward a more problematising approach to the theory and practice of risk management as preparation for research in the field takes place at Master's level.

Required courses 90 ECTS credits
The programme starts with an introductory course in risk studies (7.5 ECTS cr) followed by successively more advanced courses (52.5 cr.) with a focus on

- everyday accidents for which risks can be described in terms of injury outcomes (epidemiology) and the management of local safety promotion or injury prevention, and
- major catastrophes and crises in which the risks in the form of threats, consequences and complex system dependency are included.

Field-specific methodology (risk analysis and accident investigation) is embedded in the modules together with subject theoretical content. The same applies to field applications. The courses comprise applied theory of science and systems theory relevant to the field and methodology.

Elective courses, 30 ECTS credits
Students can choose elective courses on condition that they meet the prerequisites. Several broadening or deepening courses in risk management are offered or courses in other main fields of studies can be studied.

Transfer of credits
Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad. The decision to recognise previous education is made according to current procedures.

Additional information
Local regulations for studies at Bachelor and Master level at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

The programme is offered as distance education with a few mandatory on campus meetings at Karlstad University.